

Submitter: Robert Foster
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or LC 2
Topic:

Honorable Committee Members;

I am opposed to proposed increases in vehicle fees, road usage tax and increased payroll tax. You might assume that given my address, we are wealthy. We are not. Oregon already has one of the highest tax burdens in the country. So much so, it may drive us out of a state where I am a 4th generation native. Families are struggling and added taxes and fees will only make that worse.

Increased payroll tax will discourage businesses and business growth and places a further burden on ordinary working people, whose incomes will be reduced. A road usage fee seems complex and expensive to administer and yet another administrative burden on citizens and businesses to comply.

Currently, EV's and bicycles are contributing nothing to highway maintenance. Rather than just saying "No," I have 2 proposals.

1. Impose a realistic usage fee on EVs to reflect avoided gas tax and increased road wear from the much-heavier battery loads.

Calculate the average gas tax paid by IC vehicles. Should be easy to do - divide revenue by registered vehicles. Add 10% to allow for ICs rarely used (like one of ours) and increased road damage due to much heavier vehicle weight. Collect the fee as part of registration and renewals.

2. Do not subsidize EV purchases and apply any savings to highway maintenance.

3. Collect a significant road use fee on the sale of bicycles. This will take some work to avoid taxing kids' bikes, but it is workable. E-Bikes would be a ripe place to start, as I don't see many of those being used by children, while increasingly, I see them used on City streets.

I appreciate your attention and hope you will consider the big impacts the proposed revenue measures will have on citizens, as well as the further incentive they will have to drive people and businesses out of our state.

Sincerely.

Robert Foster

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